

## Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4863

INFO USUN NEW YORK 685

S E C R E T CARACAS 6834

FROM US DEL LOS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LOS

SUBJECT: LOS: TURKISH DEMARCHE ON AEGEAN ISSUE - JULY 18

1. SUMMARY: TURKISH DEL RAISED AEGEAN ISSUE WITH USDEL, EXPLAINED TURKISH POSITION AT LENGTH, AND STRESSED NEED FOR U.S. EFFORT TO RESOLVE PROBLEM, NOTING THAT QUESTION MAY AFFECT US-TURKISH BILATERAL RELATIONS. US REP STRESSED THAT US COULD NOT TAKE SIDES ON ISSUES AND URGED SOLUTION THROUGH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT REQUEST OF TURKISH DEL, US REP (AMB. STEVENSON) MET WITH CHIEF TURKISH DEL NAMIK YOLGA. YOLGA STATED THAT SOME ISSUES IN CARACAS LOS NEGOTIATIONS CAN SERIOUSLY AFFECT US-TURKISH RELATIONS. HE SAID DISAGREEMENTS AFFECTING AEGEAN SEA ARE HIGHLY POLITICAL

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AND US, AS LEADER OF NATO ALLIANCE, HAS RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE

ACTIVE ROLE ON QUESTION. REFERRING TO ACTIONS OF PRESIDENT TRUMAN IN TURKEY, YOLGA SAID TURKEY WANTS TO PRESERVE U.S. FRIENDSHIP BUT IF U.S. MAKES ERRONEOUS JUDGMENT ON THIS MATTER THIS WILL HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCE.

3. YOLGA REVIEWED HISTORY OF SOVEREIGNTY OF AEGEAN ISLANDS AND DIFFICULTIES GOT HAS HAD WITH GREECE ON SUCH MATTERS AS ICAO FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION, MEDITERRANEAN DEFENSE, TURKISH EARLY WARNING RADAR SYSTEMS, ETC.

4. YOLGA CITED THREE MAJOR PROBLEM AREAS: CONTINENTAL SHELF, TERRITORIAL SEA AND GREEK ARCHIPELAGO CLAIMS. YOLGA STATED THAT GREEK CLAIMS ON CONTINENTAL SHELF USING MEDIAN LINE DEMARCATION PRINCIPLE AND GREEK CLAIM TO 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA, WOULD DEPRIVE TURKEY OF VIRTUALLY ITS ENTIRE NATURAL CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE AEGEAN. ALL THAT WOULD BE LEFT TO TURKEY IN AREA WOULD BE ITS OWN TERRITORIAL SEA. HE SAID THAT TURKEY WAS READY TO NEGOTIATE BILATERALLY WITH GREEKS AT ANY TIME BUT COMPLAINED THAT GREEKS ARE NOT PREPARED TO TAKE "SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES" INTO CONSIDERATION IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS.

5. YOLGA STATED THAT PROPOSED EXTENSION OF GREEK TERRITORIAL SEA TO 12 MILES WOULD MEAN ACCESS TO PRINCIPAL TURKISH AEGEAN PORT OF IZMIR AND ACCESS TO AEGEAN AS A WHOLE WOULD BE THROUGH GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS. HE STATED THAT WITH 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA, AEGEAN WOULD BECOME A GREEK LAKE AND TURKEY WOULD BE PUSHED OUT OF THE AREA.

6. YOLGA CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT TURKEY'S VITAL INTERESTS ARE JEOPARDIZED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS, THAT THIS IS NOT SIMPLY A BILATERAL ISSUE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY AND HE APPEALED TO US ON BASIS OF EQUITY AND JUSTICE TO SUPPORT TURKEY ON THIS QUESTION.

7. US REP (STEVENSON) STATED US IS NOT INDIFFERENT TO ISSUES RAISED AND US WISHES PROMOTE NEGOTIATIONS AND BILATERAL SETTLEMENT. ON QUESTION OF EFFECTS OF EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL SEA TO 12 MILES ON TRANSIT, STEVENSON STATED US CONCERNS ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF TURKEY AND SOLUTION IS TREATY PROVISION ON UNIMPEDED TRANSIT OF STRAITS. HE URGED THAT TURKEY SUPPORT US STRAITS PROPOSALS. YOLGA STATED TURKEY SUPPORTS UNIMPEDED TRANSIT REGIME.

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8. STEVENSON SAID IT WOULD BE VERY HARD FOR FULL CONFERENCE TO AGREE ON ANY SINGLE RULE FOR DELIMITATION AND THAT WE DID WISH TO SEE ISSUE BROUGHT INTO NEGOTIATIONS. STEVENSON REFERRED TO TURKISH PROPOSAL THAT RIGHT OF COASTAL STATE TO EXTEND BREADTH OF TERRITORIAL SEA SHOULD NOT BE EXERCISED IN MANNER TO CUT OFF TERRITORIAL SEA OF ANOTHER STATE AND ASKED WHETHER PROPOSAL HAD ANY SUPPORT. YOLGA REPLIED MALANSIA AND SINGAPORE HAVE SOMEWHAT

COMPARABLE PROBLEMS, IMPLYING THEY MIGHT SUPPORT PROPOSAL. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, REAL PROBLEM IS EXTENSION OF BREADTH OF TERRITORIAL SEA AND THAT SPECIAL PROVISION FOR TRANSIT THROUGH TERRITORIAL SEA WOULD NOT SOLVE DIFFICULTY. YOLGA STRESSED THAT TURKISH PROBLEM GOES FAR BEYOND SIMPLE NAVIGATION AND INCLUDES QUESTION OF ACCESS TO CONTINENTAL SHELF AS WELL.

9. STEVENSON SAID US WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD TO ENCOURAGE GREECE TO NEGOTIATE BILATERALLY AND POINTED OUT THAT THERE MIGHT BE INCENTIVES FOR GREECE TO NEGOTIATE IN ORDER TO ENSURE TURKISH RATIFICATION OF LOS TREATY. YOLGA ASKED WHETHER US INTERESTS WOULD BE AFFECTED BY ADOPTION OF SPECIAL RULE FOR AEGEAN SITUATION. STEVENSON STATED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO TAKE STRONG POSITION ON DELIMITATION PROBLEMS IN CONFERENCE AS IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO GAIN GENERAL AGREEMENT ON ISSUE.

10. MEMBER OF TURKISH DEL, LCDR CETIN, OBSERVED AT END OF DISCUSSION THAT SITUATION IN AEGEAN HAD BEEN SETTLED IN 1920'S AFTER BLOODY WAR AND THAT GREEKS WERE NOW ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE THROUGH LEGAL DEVICES WHAT THEY HAD FAILED TO DO THEN. THAT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO TURKEY AND THERE WILL BE A PERIOD OF EXTREME TENSION BETWEEN COUNTRIES.

11. TURKISH DEL HAS DISTRIBUTED MAPS SHOWING EFFECTS OF EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL SEA TO 12 MILES AND INDICATING THAT LARGE PORTION OF TURKISH AEGEAN COAST WOULD BE BLOCKED, INCLUDING NORMAL ROUTE TO IZMIR. ACCORDING TO OUR CALCULATIONS, NARROW HIGH SEAS CORRIDOR OF A LITTLE OVER ONE MILE WOULD REMAIN.

12. COMMENT: US REP DID NOT AGREE TO SUPPORT TURKISH PROPOSALS AND MADE NO COMMENT OTHER THAN TO ENCOURAGE SETTLEMENT OF PROBLEM THROUGH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND TO INDICATE THAT US DOES NOT WISH TO SEE DELIMITATION PROBLEMS INTRODUCED INTO CONFERENCE  
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NEGOTIATIONS. END COMMENT  
STEVENSON

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## Message Attributes

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